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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 6 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 16 and 30 September 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations and damage caused, 16-30 September 1998

1. In the northern region 122 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Tall Kayf, Sinjar, Bi'aj and Rawanduz.

2. In the southern region 672 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Shatrah, Qal'at Salih, Maymunah, Rifa'i, Kut, Mu'aniyah, Nukhayb, Ali al-Gharbi, Jabal Sanam, Diwaniyah, Lasaf, Safwan, Amarah and Umm Qasr.

3. Eleven violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1400 and 1430 hours on 11 September United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

5. At 1005 and 1015 hours on 13 September United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

6. At 1030, 1035, 1100, 1125, 1705 and 1730 hours on 14 September United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the Umm Qasr and Khawr al-Zubayr areas.

7. At 1221, 1311 and 1325 hours on 16 September United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the Umm Qasr area.

8. At 1700 hours on 17 September the Iraqi freighter Al-Bay'ah, which belongs to the State Enterprise for Iraqi Water Transport and had been loaded with wheat at the port of Umm Qasr, was on its way to the Ma'qil port at Basrah by way of the Khawr Abd Allah - Shatt al-Arab Channel. A helicopter from a United States frigate on station in the northern Arabian Gulf circled the vessel and hovered over it several times in order to take photographs. The pilot of the helicopter communicated with the ship's master and instructed him to change course.

9. At 1435 hours on 17 September a formation of United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over the Ayn Zalah area.

10. At 1730 hours on 22 September United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the Umm Qasr area.